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and then permit it to surpass us in the arts of peace.

It is certainly unfortunate that the American Association should be compelled to increase its dues, as measured in dollars, at a time when all costs are advancing to such an extent that those living on fixed salaries find it extremely difficult to make both ends meet. It would, however, be a still more serious misfortune to permit the work of the association and its publications to be crippled. These are important factors in the advancement of science and in impressing on the general public the place of science in modern civilization and the need of maintaining research work for the national welfare.

The meetings of the association and the publications going to its members and read by a wide public are forces making for appreciation of the value of science to society and the need of giving adequate support to scientific research and to scientific men. Each member of the association contributes to this end and does his part to improve the situation for others as well as for himself. It is consequently to be hoped that no one will permit his membership to lapse on account of the necessary increase in nominal dues, but, on the contrary, that every member use all possible efforts to increase the membership of the association and to promote its influence and its usefulness.

#### GRANTS FOR RESEARCH OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

At the St. Louis meeting of the association, the council assigned the sum of \$4,500 to be expended by the Committee on Grants for Research during the year 1920. The members of the committee for the current year are: Henry Crew, chairman; W. B. Cannon, R. T. Chamberlin, G. N. Lewis, George T. Moore, G. H.

Parker, Robert M. Yerkes, and Joel Stebbins, secretary.

The committee will hold a meeting in Washington in the month of April, when the distribution of the grants will be made. Applications for grants may be made under the general rules given below, which were adopted in 1917; but the committee especially invites suggestions from scientific men who may happen to know of cases where young or poorly supported investigators would be greatly helped by small grants.

1. Applications for grants may be made to the member of the committee representing the science in which the work falls or to the chairman or secretary of the committee. The committee will not depend upon applications, but will make inquiry as to the way in which research funds can be best expended to promote the advancement of science. In such inquiry the committee hopes to have the cooperation of scientific men and especially of the sectional committees of the association.

2. The committee will meet at the time of the annual meeting of the association or on the call of the chairman. Business may be transacted and grants may be made by correspondence. In such cases the rules of procedure formulated by the late Professor Pickering and printed in the issue of *Science* for May 23, 1913, will be followed.

3. Grants may be made to residents of any country, but preference will be given to residents of America.

4. Grants of sums of \$500 or less are favored, but larger appropriations may be made. In some cases appropriations may be guaranteed for several years in advance.

5. Grants, as a rule, will be made for work which could not be done or would be very difficult to do without the grant. A grant will not ordinarily be made to defray living expenses.

6. The committee will not undertake to supervise in any way the work done by those who receive the grants. Unless otherwise provided, any apparatus or materials purchased will be the property of the individual receiving the grant.

7. No restriction is made as to publication, but the recipient of the grant should in the publication of his work acknowledge the aid given by the fund.

8. The recipient of the grant is expected to make to the secretary of the

committee a report in December of each year while the work is in progress and a final report when the work is accomplished. Each report should be accompanied by a financial statement of expenditures, with vouchers for the larger items when these can be supplied without difficulty.

9. The purposes for which grants are made and the grounds for making them will be published.

### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Richard C. MacLaurin, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, previously professor of mathematics in the University of New Zealand and of mathematical physics in Columbia University, and of George Macloskie, professor emeritus of biology in Princeton University.

OFFICIAL notice has been issued by the French Academy of Sciences of the award of the Bordin prize in mathematics to Dr. S. Lefschetz, assistant professor of mathematics in the University of Kansas, and of

the Lalande prize in astronomy to Dr. V. M. Slipher, director of the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff.—Dr. Jacques Loeb, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Dr. Robert Andrews Millikan, of the University of Chicago, Dr. Arthur Gordon Webster, of Clark University, and Dr. W. W. Campbell, of Lick Observatory, have been elected honorary members of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and Ireland.

At the dinner of the alumni of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, held in Cambridge on January 10, it was announced that the endowment fund of four million dollars had been obtained by the alumni, thus securing the gift of an equal sum from the hitherto anonymous "Mr. Smith." It was revealed that "Mr. Smith," who has now given eleven million dollars to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is Mr. George Eastman, president of the Eastman Kodak Company.